

MAR 20 2008

Serial No. 10/552,921

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-16, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1 and 3 have been cancelled.

This Amendment is believed to place this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 15 and 16 are allowable. All the claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims 15 and 16. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 2 and 4-16 are respectfully requested.

1. Claim 12 was objected to for an informality. Claim 12 has been amended, mooting the objection.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hsiung et al. U.S. Patent 6,876,313 and Levine et al. U.S. Patent 5,697,689. Claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2, 6, 8, 11 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Specifically, claims 2, 6, 8, 11 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hsiung, Levine, and Weber et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,902. Claim 3 has been cancelled and claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 16. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, all claims 2 and 4-16 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further

Serial No. 10/552,921

amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

Date: March 20, 2008



Roger W. Parkhurst

Reg. No. 25,177

Adam C. Ellsworth

Reg. No. 55,152

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1795  
Tel: (202) 429-6420